

***Staurogyne glutinosa* (Wall. ex Clarke) O. Kuntze
(Acanthaceae): a new record for Peninsular India.**

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Abstract

Staurogyne glutinosa (Wall. ex Clarke) O. Kuntze (Acanthaceae) is reported for the first time from Peninsular India. Detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

The genus *Staurogyne* Wall., with about 40 species is distributed in S. E. Asia, Malaya, Australia and Brazil. Of the 29 species reported from India (Clarke, 1885; Henry & Balakrishnan, 1961), only 2 species, *S. glauca* (Nees) O. Kuntze, and *S. zeylanica* (Nees) O. Kuntze have, so far, been known to occur in Peninsular India.

While studying the mangrove and littoral plants of Kerala state, we came across an interesting specimen of *Staurogyne*, growing in harvested paddy fields of Trissur Dt. in Kerala. After a critical study of our specimens and relevant literature, it was identified as *S. glutinosa* (Wall. ex Clarke) O. Kuntze, so far known only from the northern parts of India. We have also compared them with the type specimen (*Ebermaiera glutinosa*, Wall. Cat. 9087, microfische). The taxon is described and illustrated here.

***Staurogyne glutinosa* (Wall. ex Clarke) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 1: 499. 1891.**

Ebermaiera glutinosa Wall. ex Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 396. 1884; Prian, Beng. Pl. 798 & Veg. 256. 1963.

Ebermaiera glauca T. Anders. J. Linn. Soc. 9: 450. 1867, non Nees.

(Fig. 1)

Diffuse or trailing pubescent herbs with a thick root stock and several slender branches rooting at nodes. Leaves all opposite, ovate or elliptic, sub-acute to obtuse at apex, attenuate and decurrent on the petiole below, membranous, sub-entire, secondary veins 6—8 pairs, slightly raised above, glabrous

Staurogyne glutinosa in Peninsular India

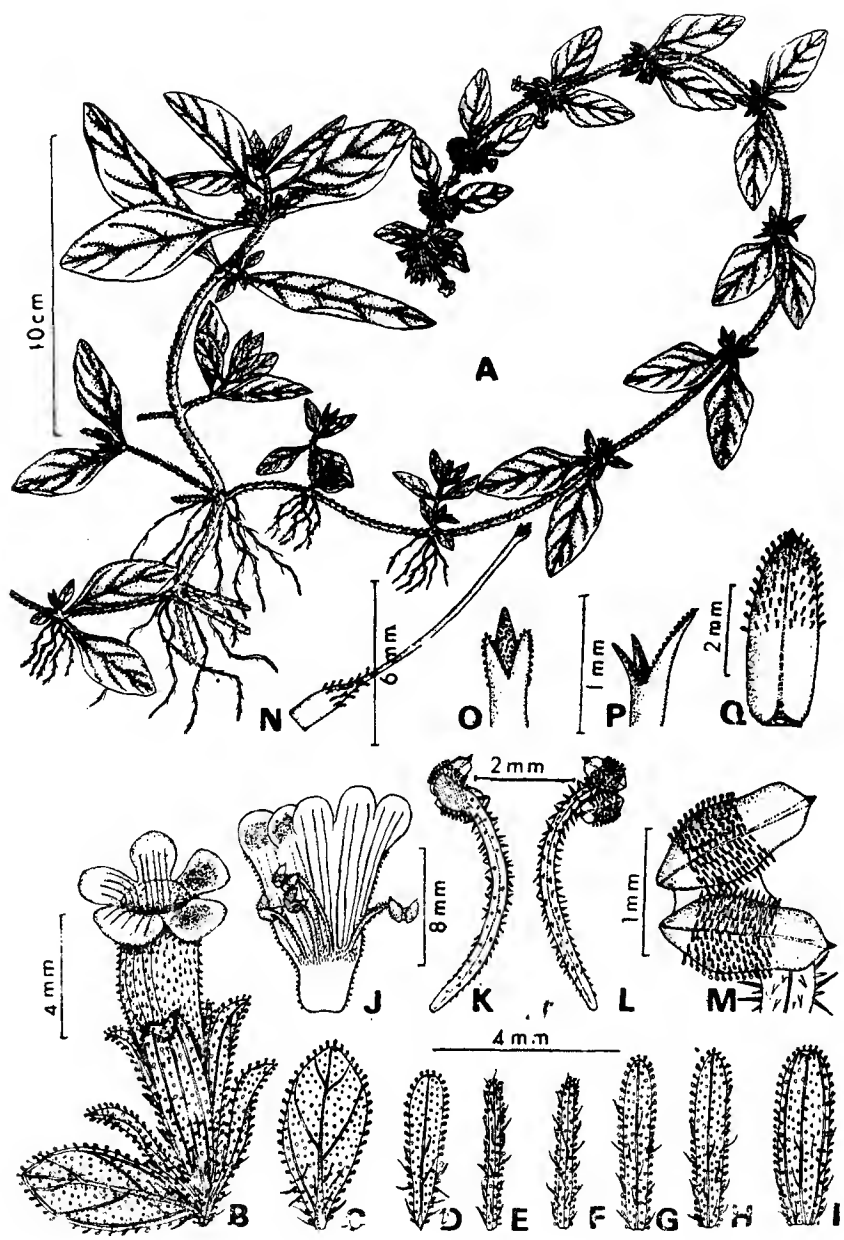


Fig. *Staurogyne glutinosa* (Wall. ex. Clarke) O. Kuntze. A, habit; B, Flower; C, bract; D, bracteole; E to I, Calyx-lobes from the innermost to the outermost J, corolla-tube opened; K & L, single stamens; M, anther; N, pistill; O & P, stigma; Q, capsule.

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above and glaucous below; lamina $5-6 \times 2.5$ cm; petiole 1—2 cm long; axillary shoots with smaller leaves. Inflorescence pseudoaxillary, short peduncled, glandular-pubescent, bracteate, capitate heads, rarely axillary solitary. Flowers 2.5 cm long 5 mm across. Pedicel to 1.5 mm long. Bracts leaf-like, elliptic to obovate, obtuse, $7-9 \times 3-4$ mm, viscid-hairy with a few eglandular hairs towards the base. Bracteoles oblong, spatulate, to 6×2 mm viscid-hairy with a few eglandular hairs. Calyx deeply 5-partite; lobes in 2 sub-equal pairs; the inner most pair linear, to 7.5×0.5 mm; the second pair oblong-obovate, slightly larger; the 5th segment largest, to 8.5×2.5 mm; all calyx lobes viscid-hairy. Corolla to 14×5 mm, slightly 2-lipped, bluish-purple; tube slightly curved, viscid outside and with a ring of pink-purple hairs inside at the base of stamens; lobes 5, ovovate, obtuse or retuse, spreading. Stamens 4, didymous, included; filaments flat, hairy; anther cells divergent, pale yellow, muticous with a median transverse belt of hairs. Disc inconspicuous. Ovary oblong, 2×1 mm, minutely viscid-pubescent on upper half, 2-carpellary, syncarpous, many-ovuled on axile placenta; style filiform, glabrous, to 7 mm long; stigma bifid, glandular; the lower lobe again 2-lobed. Capsule small, $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the persistent calyx, to 5×1.8 mm, oblong, minutely glandular pubescent above the middle, tip shortly apiculate. Seeds upto 30 in each cell, minute, globose or cuboid, glandular when young, obscurely pitted when ripe; retinacula absent.

Flowers and Fruits: January-April.

Distribution: India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Kerala), Bangladesh.

Specimens studied: Kerala: Thrissur Dt.: Anthikad, *Dhruvan* 49878; Peringottukara, *Dhruvan* 49876; Manallur, *Dhruvan* 49879 (CALI).

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Literature cited

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- Henry, A. N. and Balakrishnan, N. P. 1961. A new species of *Staurogyne* Wall. from Central India. *Bull. Bot. Surv. India* 3 (2): 205-206.